

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 /065 W

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R 051345Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2733

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, NO

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NATO AEW (AWACS) PROGRAM

REF: STATE 265681

1. I CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN NOVEMBER 4  
AND REVIEWED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL WITH HIM.

2. HANSEN LISTENED CLOSELY AND COMMENTED THAT GON TAKES  
LOW LEVEL THREAT VERY SERIOUSLY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO  
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DISCUSS AWACS PROGRAM THOROUGHLY.

3. HANSEN underscored that problem for Norway was high cost of AWACS and competing national defense priorities. However, he said, GON would continue to give the program serious consideration and would "...try to find a solution..." when subject of cost sharing was mentioned, Hansen volunteered, "we don't like other people having to pay our defense bills." In this connection, Minister noted that STORTING was presently considering request for increased NATO INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING (discussed at October 5 and 19 NATO DPC meeting see OSLO 5001 and 5076) and would probably "... reach a favorable decision." He said further that MOD would study aide memoire thoroughly in the process of preparing their position for the DEC meeting. WE WILL CONINUE TO WORK OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS ON THIS MATTER

4. DCM made same points to Foreign Ministry under Secretary STOLTENBERG on November 1. STOLTENBERG noted points but gave little reaction as he was not immediately informed on subject.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT GON WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO QUESTION OF AWACS PARTICIPATION BUT THAT NATURE AND EXPENSE OF PROGRAM STILL REPRESENT SERIOUS HURDLES FOR THEM. NORWEGIAN DEFENSE STAFF IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO COUNTRY'S FRONT LINE POSITION AND HEIGHTENED NEED FOR BEST POSSIBLE EARLY WARNING. COST IS A PROBLEM, BUT HANSEN'S COMMENTS INDICATE NORWEGIANS PLAN TO ADDRESS SUBJECT EARNESTLY.

ANDERS

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## Message Attributes

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